



Iberolacerta aurelioii - Aurelio's Rock Lizard



Male: F / Ariège, 21.08.2016 - Note the black dots on the labials.

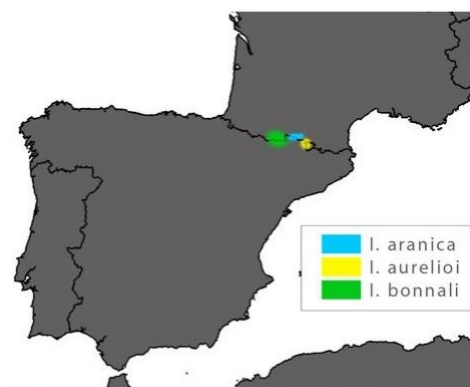
Aurelio's Rock Lizards are really tough guys: They live in cold mountain habitats up to 3000 meters which forces them to hibernate for half of the year - a challenging environment for cold-blooded animals. When they come out in early summer, temperatures can still rapidly fall and even snowfall may not be excluded. When the sun is out, they can be seen basking on barren granite rocks. Due to their short activity periods, they seem to be quite long-living.

Iberolacerta aurelioii occurs exclusively in the mountains at the borders of France, Spain and Andorra.

It shares its habitats with *Zootoca vivipara* (which occupies different micro-habitats with more vegetation and climbs less). *Zootoca vivipara* has shorter heads and compact bodies. It shows a dark vertebral line which lacks in *Iberolacerta aurelioii*.

Moreover, *Podarcis muralis* seems to increasingly invade the habitats of Aurelio's Rock Lizard. Presumably, this could lead to some crowding out of *Iberolacerta aurelioii* in the course of climate warming. *Podarcis muralis* frequently shows a dark vertebral line which lacks in *Iberolacerta aurelioii* (males of *Iberolacerta aurelioii* may show a dark line on the tail, instead). Furthermore, it has dark-spotted, frequently orange throat, whereas *Iberolacerta aurelioii* has whitish throat.

Iberolacerta aurelioii differs from other Pyrenean Rock Lizards (*Iberolacerta bonnali*, *Iberolacerta aranica*) by its frequently yellow underside.



Distribution areas of Pyrenean Rock Lizards: *Iberolacerta aurelioii* only occurs in a small range at the borders of France, Spain and Andorra.



EUROLIZARDS

Male: F / Ariège. 21.08.2016 - Males show a contrasty pattern.



EUROLIZARDS

Male: F / Ariège. 21.08.2016 - The labials and undersides can be yellow.



Female: F / Ariège, 21.08.2016 - Females show less contrasty pattern than males.



F / Ariège, 21.08.2016 - Note the dark line on the tail.



View towards Ariège Valley from a northern-slope habitat of *Iberolacerta aurelioi* and *Zootoca vivipara* at 2000 m.

